



Toilet Training





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Setting the scene for success

Most dogs prefer not to toilet in the house but, occasionally accidents happen. To help ensure that your dog doesn't have any accidents, we recommend that you begin the process of toilet training straight away. We can't guarantee a house-trained dog but most Greyhounds are clean in their kennels, and once they know where you want them to empty, they will be happy to stick with that routine. But you need to work hard, are consistent, patient and give him clear guidelines.

Teaching your dog to toilet outside

Firstly, you will need to decide upon the verbal cue you're going to use to let your dog know that it's time to toilet. Phrases such as 'be quick', 'get busy', 'wee time,' 'time to get busy' etc can be useful cues.

You will also need to ensure that everyone in the family is consistent in using the same one.

House training should begin as soon as your dog arrives home. Take them straight into the garden. You will need to accompany your dog into the garden, each time you let them out to toilet. Let him have a good sniff around to get used to his new territory. You may find he wees quite quickly, but it may take a little while for him to be confident enough to open his bowels. After this initial visit to the garden, keep repeating the routine at regular periods throughout the day. During this time it is unlikely that the Greyhound will have had a chance to have an accident and they will be thoroughly familiar with the idea that any 'toilets' are to be done outside. They all need to wee as soon as they go somewhere new!



- Each time you let your dog out for a pee/poop - give your cue (just as you open the door) so that they learn to associate the cue with what is to be expected of them.
- Accompany them into the garden, and as soon as they start to toilet say your cue again and praise them (verbally)
- Watch to make sure they finish toileting
- The moment they have finished toileting reward them immediately with a bit of

food – chopped cheese, chicken, hotdog and lots of "good boy!" verbal praise.

- The food reward must be high value, so not just kibble.
- It is important that you reward your dog really quickly 'in-situ' (so to speak), so that the connection can be made between the action of toileting outside = reward



You will need to keep watching and remain with your dog until they have toileted and then reward them (even when the weather is bad). Eventually, you will be able to fade the food rewards and just use verbal phrase, as you call him back in.

Remember: Calling your dog in to the house and rewarding them, is rewarding them for a recall, rather than toileting outside



Predicting when your dog needs to toilet

If you learn how to predict when your dog needs to be taken out to toilet, you will find house training much easier. Generally, dogs will start sniffing and circling **just before they toilet. Don't wait for your dog to start toileting in the house!**

That's too late! Quickly encourage them to follow you outside and as soon as they start toileting in the right place, say your verbal cue, praise them and give them a food reward.

What signals should I look out for?

Some signs to look for when your dog needs to go to the toilet are restlessness, pacing up and down, whining, scratching at the door or circling.

Of course, at first, there may be no signs as the dog will have been used to living in a kennel, but Greyhounds are generally clean animals and learn very quickly.

As a rule of thumb, take your dog out to toilet immediately after:

- Sleeping/waking up
- Eating
- Playing
- Becoming excited
- Before bedtime



Poop and poop patrol!

However tempting, never 'pick up the poop' in your garden immediately – this will confuse the dog and he will think that you are telling him not to toilet in that area. Try and always leave a fresh poop in an area of the garden that the dog can learn to recognise as his 'place'.

What to do if your dog toilets in the house?

Missed signals and mistakes will happen. If your dog has an accident in the house clean it up calmly and make sure you use a proprietary cleaner and odour eliminator, or a solution of biological washing detergent, to eliminate the smell, otherwise they will constantly re-mark over that spot. **Just because you can't smell it anymore doesn't mean that the dog can't and will return to the smell as a safe and familiar place to toilet again.**

Never use products that contain ammonia to clean up after a **dog's** accident – to the dog the smell is similar to his toilet smells and it will encourage him to soil in that spot again!



If the dog does poop in the house, pick it up and put it in his 'place' in the garden – this will reinforce the good toilet place. It may not sound like the most pleasant thing to do but it will be worth it when you have a happy housetrained dog!

Never punish your dog or raise your voice if he goes to the toilet in the house. Your dog is not being naughty; he just does not understand what you expect from him. It is up to you to show him where to go to the toilet and to praise him when he gets it right.

If you don't show him where to go to the toilet and tell him off for going indoors, the chances are he will just go when you are not looking.

Punishment will only serve to undermine your relationship with your dog and delay toilet training.

Your dog was clean & then starts toileting in the house?

If your dog suddenly starts toileting in the house, this can often be caused by an underlying infection, or incomplete toilet training. In the first instance, we recommend that you speak to your vet so that any potential medical cause can either be ruled out or treated. Sometimes, inappropriate toileting – particularly urination – can be the result of a urinary tract infection (UTI), or for defecation, a result of gastro-intestinal issues. A urine sample, analysed by your vet, will be able to determine whether your dog has a UTI or any other medical reason for urinating in the home and, if appropriate, provide a treatment plan.

If the tests are clear, it is likely that your dog's toilet training has broken down. This means that you will need to go back to the basics of toilet training

Your dog will only toilet in the garden and not on walks?

Some dogs may, initially, be reluctant to toilet outside the confines of your garden. This can be quite common, particularly with dogs that may be a little nervous or lacking in confidence. When a dog is defecating or urinating, they are at their most vulnerable, so it makes sense that they need to feel secure in order to toilet.

With time, patience, and lots of confidence building games, most dogs will relax enough to be able to toilet when outside the garden.



Helpful Information

Kennel Manager contact info: 01932251894 or carol@hershamhounds.org.uk

Other handy guides that can be found on the Wimbledon Greyhound Welfare website include:

- [Responsible Dog Ownership](#)
- [Bringing Your New Dog Home](#)
- [The First Night at Home](#)
- [Greyhounds and Children](#)
- [Greyhounds and Muzzles](#)
- [Toilet Training](#)
- [Greyhounds as Pets](#)
- [Issues Around Food Resources](#)
- [Sighthounds and Stairs](#)
- [Spending Time Alone](#)

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